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To: [Thiele, Aaron](#)
Cc: [Cameron, Scott](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [David Mihalic](#); [Domenech, Douglas](#); [Greg Sheehan](#); [Gregory Sheehan](#); [James Cason](#); [Katharine Macgregor](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Lori Mashburn](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Rusty Roddy](#); [Scott Angelle](#); [Scott Hommel](#); [Vincent Devito](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Downey Magallanes](#); [Andrea Travnick](#); [Timothy Williams](#); [William Dove](#); [John Tahsuda](#); [David Bernhardt](#)
Subject: Re: Bi-Weekly Meeting Reminder on 9/27
Date: Wednesday, September 27, 2017 9:02:36 AM
Attachments: [Bi-Weekly Briefing 9-27-17.pptx](#)

Hi all,

Here is the completed briefing ppt for today.

Caroline

On Mon, Sep 25, 2017 at 11:26 AM, Thiele, Aaron <aaron_thiele@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

All,

I just wanted to give you heads up that we will be having a bi-weekly briefing this Wednesday at 9:30am. All slides are due by noon tomorrow. I will be out of town starting tomorrow so please be sure to forward them to Caroline Boulton who will be compiling them. Attached is the previous briefing's slides for your reference.

best,
Aaron

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Bi-Weekly Policy Briefing for Secretary Zinke

September 27, 2017



Agenda

1. Fish and Wildlife and Parks
2. Water and Science
3. Policy, Management, and Budget
4. Land and Minerals Management
5. Insular Areas
6. Indian Affairs
7. Solicitor
8. Office of the Secretary
9. Congressional and Legislative Affairs
10. External Affairs/
Intergovernmental
11. Communications
12. White House Liaison
13. Scheduling and Advance



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Current Operations

- FWS

- Autumn of Outdoor Recreation rollout
 - National Wildlife Refuge Week, October 8-14
- Priority Endangered Species items
 - Ken's amphipod withdrawal to publish in the Federal Register by September 30
 - Batched 12 month findings (all negative) to be submitted to the Federal Register by September 30
 - Listing determinations for three Southeast darters and the candy darter to be submitted to the Federal Register by September 30
 - 6 month extension for the Louisiana pine snake to publish in the Federal Register by October 6

- NPS

- Sexual harassment survey results
- Yellowstone bison transfer to Fort Peck
- Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog management plan
- Senate Subcommittee on National Parks hearing, *Encouraging the Next Generation to Visit National Parks*, September 27



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- FWS
 - ESA 7 years plan update and public available review.
 - Priority Endangered Species items
 - Four Everglades plants listing determination to publish by October 11
 - Panama City crayfish to publish by December 29
 - Black warrior waterdog to publish by January 4, 2018
- NPS
 - NPS seasonal fee structure at top parks
 - National Mall and Memorial Parks permits
 - U.S. Semiquincentennial (250th) Anniversary Commission establishment



Fish and Wildlife and Parks



Major Events and Travel

- Acting Assistant Secretary Todd Willens
 - No travel this week
- FWS Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan
 - Florida to assess hurricane impacts on refuges, September 29 – October 1

Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds

- Florida to assess hurricane impacts to South Florida parks, September 27 – 29
- Grand Canyon National Park for National Park Foundation board meeting, October 12 -15



Water and Science



Water and Science

Current Operations

Bureau of Reclamation

- Minute 323 – U.S. Mexico Cooperation Colorado River signing today
- Creation of Extraordinary Conservation Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) for the Colorado River
- San Luis Unit Drainage

U.S. Geological Survey

- Hurricane Responses-real time field measurements and reporting of water heights



Water and Science

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Bureau of Reclamation

- Navajo Generating Station
- Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Implementation
- Aamodt Water Rights Settlement Progress

U.S. Geological Survey

- USGS will announce new probability model that predicts the population of domestic well users exposed to high levels of arsenic in drinking water
- USGS will announce paper about the potential release of mercury into the environment from thawing permafrost (core samples collected in North Slope of Alaska)
- Critical Minerals Report release, still pending



Water and Science

Major Events and Travel

Bureau of Reclamation

- September 27-29 Colorado River Symposium, Santa Fe
- Central Valley Project Meetings October 10-13, Sacramento, California
- Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project Completion Ceremony, October 17, Folsom Dam, California

U.S. Geological Survey

- International Group of Earth Observations-Geo Week, Oct. 23, D.C.
- Alaska Mapping Executive Committee Meeting, Oct. 26, Anchorage
- Pecora 20 Symposium-partnership with NASA Nov. 14 Sioux Falls, SD



Policy, Management and Budget



Policy, Management and Budget

Current Operations

- Government Performance and Results Act revised strategic plan for DOI
 - Draft plan received feedback from Asst. Sec'y. and Bureau Directors
 - Draft plan to OMB week of September 25, after Deputy Secretary review
 - Final plan due for public release on 1/20/18
 - Plan's metrics need to be tied to for SES performance standards
 - Coordinated with reorganization plan and budget submitted September 11
- FY 2019 President's Budget
 - (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria response
 - DOI responding to FEMA direction
 - Anticipating OMB datacall for FY17 emergency supplemental appropriations bill



Policy, Management and Budget

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Grants management
 - Avoiding conflict of interest between grantee/DOI employee
 - Engaging political leadership up front systematically on grant eligibility criteria is preferable to reviewing individual grants after preliminary grant decisions are made
 - Asst. Secy's and bureau directors being asked to focus on Secretarial Top 10 Priorities
 - Departmental manual updates on grantmaking on the horizon
- DOI reorganization for the next 100 years
 - Coordinated with GPRA strategic plan and budget request
 - (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]; low-cost reprogrammings in FY 17/18
 - Settling on the standard regions
 - Phasing and project plan for implementation of reorganization in FY18, FY19
 - Moving people from DC area to smaller cities seems to pay for itself in about 6 years



Policy, Management and Budget

Major Events and Travel

- Partnership for Public Service's Annual Service to America awards dinner, 9/27, Washington DC (interagency team including DOI a finalist for an award)
- Royalty Policy Committee first meeting during week of October 4



Land and Minerals Management



Land and Minerals Management

BLM

Current Operations

- Venting and Flaring Rule
- Hydraulic Fracturing Rule Public Comment Period Ended 9/25 (108,824 comments received)
- Finalizing Planning/ NEPA Streamlining Report
- Sept 21 WY lease sale resulted in \$38,736,473 total receipts.
 - 20,160 Acres deferred from the preliminary list for Sage Grouse

30-60 Day Outlook

- Preparing an NOI to begin 45 day scoping period to address problems with Sage Grouse LUPs



Land and Minerals Management

OSMRE

Current Operations

- OSMRE/ State Regulatory Authority Summit
 - Conducted review of regulatory burdens

30-60 Day Outlook

- Regulatory changes
 - Inspections
 - Oversight frequency
 - 10-day notice policy on permit defects



Land and Minerals Management

BOEM

Current Operations

- Proposed Notice of Sale for Lease Sale 250- currently in surnaming, +1 million acres this year, target publication of Oct. 6 (Largest offshore lease sale in U.S. history)
- Initiated coordination with Army Corps of Engineers for emergency planning process for use of OCS sand resources for 2017 hurricanes

30-60 Day Outlook

- Next milestone in 5-year plan- Publishing draft proposed program (DPP)
 - Draft Proposed Program briefings held, decision needed by Oct. 13 to maintain timeline
 - Proposed publication of DPP in mid-November



Land and Minerals Management

BSEE

Current Operations

- Held Well Control Rule Forum
- Subpart H Currently under review

30-60 Day Outlook

- Regulatory reform updates



Land and Minerals Management

Major Events and Travel

- October 1-6: Acting Assistant Secretary, Kate MacGregor will be in NM October 1-3 for NMOGA annual meeting; WY October 4-6 for the NOIA fall meeting concurrently with BLM staff meetings
- BSEE Director Angelle will be in Alaska October 1-5 to visit the BSEE regional office and meet stakeholders in the state



Insular Areas



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Hurricane Response & Recovery – U.S. Virgin Islands

Met with FEMA Administrator Brock Long on Friday, September 22.

Response underway. Recovery starting. (First meeting held this week.)

Hurricane Irma/Maria Response: 135 DOI Personnel supporting the response under FEMA Mission Assignments. 89 of those are Law Enforcement officers providing assistance in PR/VI. They are DOI assets under direct control of FEMA/ATF. There are other DOI employees working in PR/VI for organic DOI missions.

Quick Response Teams deployed to Puerto Rico and USVI.

QRT 1: BLM - 25

QRT 2: FWS Refuge – 13, BLM – 4, NPS – 4, OIG – 2, OLES – 1

QRT 3: BLM 13, USPP 7, OLES – 3, NPS – 2, OIG - 1

QRT 4: BIA/Tribal - 14

Virgin Islands is still in RESCUE PHASE:

- Immediate needs to evacuate residents w/chronic medical needs
- Provide food, water, personal essentials to residents
- Clear debris from the roads
- Restore internet and cell service
- Restore electricity
- Stabilize the thousands of residential, commercial, and governments buildings that have lost roofs or otherwise been compromised.

The hurricane season in the Atlantic typically lasts through November.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations – Grant Announcements 2018

Closing out 2017 grant operations.

OIA Discretionary Grants for 2018 to open on **www.grants.gov** the week of October 16, 2018.

This can serve as a conduit for emergency grant requests from the U.S. Virgin Islands.

OIA Funding will be provided under the short-term **continuing resolution** (Public Law 115-56) which ends December 8, 2017



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations – Territories

- AMERICAN SAMOA – In mid-October, OIA will award its first grant, an operational subsidy to the American Samoa Government, of approximately \$4 million, to support the local Department of Education, the hospital, and the judicial system.
- CNMI – The CNMI currently has an allowance of CW-1 visas of 12,998. Even with the recent enactment of H.R. 339, allowing an additional 350 CW-1 visas, it is well under the CNMI's estimated need of 18,000 workers. Note: The additional 350 CW-1 visas expire in four days. We continue to oppose DHS' plan to reduce CW workers to zero by 2019.



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

Current Operations – Freely Associated States (FAS)

Follow-Up from Secretary's Meetings with Two Presidents, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands:

- Set up meeting between Interior, State, and Defense
- Support Secretary for a State Visit to the White House for the Three FAS

Kili-Bikini-Ejit (KBE) Atoll Government in the Marshall Islands

- The **local** KBE Atoll Government seeks to manage its own Bikini Resettlement Trust Fund for the People of Bikini. Spending limits are now determined by DOI/OIA.
- SOL to render a legal opinion on DOI/OIA next steps



Assistant Secretary Insular Areas

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Discretionary Grant Programs for 2018

- ASIN Insular Areas has flexibility to establish 2018 priorities consistent with the Secretary's priorities.
- Priority guidelines will guide Insular Areas in application process.



Indian Affairs



Indian Affairs

Current Operations

- White House Tribal Finance Roundtable follow-up
 - CFPB is suing tribes; CFPB has requested AS-IA accompany them to CFPB meeting
 - New Market Tax Credits research
- White House Energy Roundtable follow-up
 - Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group
 - Energy DepSec statement on Indian Energy Sovereignty
 - Navajo Generating Station efforts
- Update of Land into Trust Regulations
- Ratification of Indian Loan Guarantees issued during prior 24 months



Indian Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Develop discussion draft of Land-into-trust regulations for NCAI (Oct 16)
- Get charter school policy proposals from National Indian Education Association (expected by mid-October)
- Work with Treasury on New Market Tax Credit study
- Develop policy brief on tribes as IP holding companies
- Trade and Commerce consultation and data collection until October 30
 - Policy Brief by September 30
- Prepare for TIBC



Indian Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Testimony
 - House Natural Resources Committee – Indian Affairs Subcommittee (9/26)
 - H.R. 3744, the Tribal Recognition Act
 - H.R.3650, the Lumbee Recognition Act
 - H.R. 3535, the Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act
 - SCIA Roundable on Energy (9/28)
 - SCIA Gaming Oversight (10/4)
- Keynote Addresses / Presentations
 - Native American Finance Officers Association (10/2)
- Tribal Consultations
 - Land into Trust (10/26, 4/14, 4/16)
 - Trade and Commerce (10/2, 10/16, 10/21)



Solicitor



Office of the Solicitor

Current Operations

- (b) (5) ACP [Redacted]



Office of the Solicitor

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- (b) (5) ACP [Redacted]



Office of the Solicitor

Major Events and Travel

- (b) (5) ACP [Redacted]



Office of the Secretary



Congressional and Legislative Affairs



Congressional Affairs

Current Operations

- Nominees
 - Burman (BOR), Combs (ASPMB), Nelson (Solicitor) & Balash (ASLM) – Marked Up and awaiting floor vote
 - (b) (5)
- FY18 Budget QFR Approvals - HNR awaiting final OMB approval
- Maintenance Fund Language – Speaker Ryan, Senate Meetings
- North Dakota Water Easement Trip



Congressional Affairs

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

Hearings

- (9/26) House Homeland Security Committee “DHS Financial Systems: Will Modernization Ever Be Achieved?”
 - Witness: Michele Singer, IBC
- (9/26) House Natural Resources Legislative hearing on Tribal Recognition
 - John Tahsuda, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- (9/27) SENR Hearing on Encouraging the Next Generation to Visit National Parks
 - Witness: Lena McDowell, Deputy Director for Management and Administration
- (9/27) SCIA Hearing on GAO report on Human Trafficking
 - Jason Thompson, Acting Director of Justice Services
- (9/28) SCIA Roundtable on “Best Practices in Tribal Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement: Federal Permitting and Infrastructure Project Review in Indian Country”
 - Doug Lord, Steve Payson, and Steve Manydeeds, BIA
- (10/4) SCIA oversight hearing on “Doubling Down on Indian Gaming: Examining New Issues and Opportunities for Success in the Next 30 Years.”
 - John Tahsuda, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

Legislative Agenda

- Senate Interior Appropriations



Congressional Affairs

Major Events and Travel

- Congressional Meetings for Secretary Zinke
 - Majority/Minority meetings with HNRC & HAC-I – 10/24
 - Louisiana Coastal Tour – Sen. Cassidy
 - Everglades Tour – Sen. Rubio – Confirmed for October 7
- Congressional Meetings for Dep. Sec. Bernhardt
 - Western Caucus – 11/14



External and Intergovernmental Affairs



OEIA

Current Operations

- Cut The Red Tape Roundtable
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation— Film Permit
- Alaska Fort Knox - BLM



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs (OEIA)

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- Continued outreach within the Sportsmen's community *(Utilizing our Natural Resources)*
- Strengthen Governor and Department cooperation *(Restoring trust within local communities)*
- Outreach within the Wild Horse & Burro Community *(Creating a stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt)*
- Outreach to the States Wildlife Agencies *(Modernizing our infrastructure)*
- Outreach to local governments *(Restoring trust within local communities)*
- Outreach to Industry *(Striking a regulatory balance)*



Office of External and Intergovernmental Affairs (OEIA)

Major Events and Travel

- BOEM Intergovernmental Renewable Task Force
- Cut The Red Tape – Liberating America From Bureaucracy
- Agency Wide OEIA

Travel

- Personal Leave (Oct 11-15)
- BOEM Intergovernmental Task Force (Oct 3)
- First Solar Ceremony (Oct 12)
- The 2017 Shift Festival (Nov 1-3)



Communications



Office of Communications

Current Operations

- Sept 27 – Pitching Zinke Monument Review op-ed CNN Digital.
- Sept 28 – Valley Forge press tour.
- Sept. 28 – DOI & BLM announcing Sept. oil and gas lease sales.
- Sept 29 – Heritage Foundation Energy Speech.
- Sept. 30 – Public Lands Day Anacostia River clean up with DOI volunteers
- Oct. 2 – White House Deregulation Day
- Oct. 3 – Deregulation Day “Radio Row”
- Oct. TBD – DOI-BOEM press release on Notice of Sale For Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale



Office of Communications

30-60 Day Objectives and Policy Outlook

- *Themes: hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation that drive home our Conservation Stewardship message*

To do:

- Refine strategic comms plan around the policy priorities, ensuring all are aligned with our Top 10 priorities
- Senior Leader Retreat
- Establish Communications rollout for Re-org.
- Working with WH on Critical Minerals report comms rollout.
- We stand ready to execute Monument Review outreach plan when WH is ready to release the report.



White House Liaison



White House Liaison Office

Personnel:

- Schedule C
 - 32 of 68 onboard
 - 4 starting
 - 7 in process
- SES
 - 21 of 44 onboard
 - 4 starting
 - 3 in process
- PAS
 - 2 out of 17 onboard
 - 4 of 17 announced
 - 15 of 17 submitted



Scheduling and Advance



Scheduling and Advance

In Town Events:

- Heritage Energy Policy Speech (9/29)
- Liberating America from Bureaucracy Events – Deregulation Day (10/2)
- Congressional Coal Caucus (10/11)

Upcoming Trips

- South Carolina / Georgia / Florida (10/2-10/10)
- Arizona / Texas (10/12-10/16)
- POTENTIAL: Travel to U.S. Virgin Islands/Puerto Rico with POTUS